

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

SABO, Martin Olav (Democrat)
Representative, 5th District, Minnesota
Elected (1978) to the 96th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Crosby, North Dakota - 28 February 1938
Home: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Marital status: Married (Sylvia) - 2 children
Religion: Lutheran
Education: Augsburg College, BA, 1959; Univ of Minnesota, 1960
Military: None
Profession: Public official

Political: Minnesota House, 1960-78; Speaker, Minnesota House, 1973-8. Succeeded Rep Donald Fraser (D) who ran unsuccessfully for the Senate in 1978. Reelected in 2000 with 69% of the vote and in 2002 with 67%.

Rep Sabo is a liberal who opposed most Reagan-Bush defense programs from his position on the Appropriations Defense Subc. Is a staunch arms control advocate. In the 102nd Congress served on the Select Cmte on Intelligence. Criticized DoD for buying foreign advanced computer systems for command & control functions. Became Chairman, Budget Cmte at the start of the 103d Congress. Met with DoD officials in Jun94 on the issue of the Army's secret spraying of cadmium sulfide over MN in 1953. When the GOP took control of the House in the 104th Congress. Came off the Budget Cmte at the beginning of the 105th Congress. Named to Ethics Committee. Sponsored legislation to provide public financing of House general election campaigns, and a bill to provide Federal employees with the option of obtaining FEHBP coverage for self and children only. Cosponsored measures calling for US ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, supporting the establishment of a House Select Cmte on POW & MIA Affairs, urging that overseas military personnel and dependents have access to abortion services, calling for the closure of the Army's School of the Americas, prohibiting the sale of US attack, bomber & fighter aircraft to Latin American countries, requiring greater safeguards in the provision of surplus military equipment, requiring military physicians to have unrestricted licenses, and establishing the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site.

In the 106th Congress opposed the GOP tax cut plan stating that it would use up resources needed to fund education, health care and national defense programs. In March 1999 said the military pension system was blatantly unfair to those serving less than 20 years and called for the vesting of benefits similar to the practices in industry. (HAC/Def Subc, 3Mar99) In the 107th Congress, submitted legislation that would prevent work stoppage on the Crusader program until Congress has made a "definitive judgement." Did not support the war powers resolution. Voted against "fast-track" procedures for trade agreements.

In the 108th Congress, stepped down from the Transportation subcommittee to be the ranking member of the new Homeland Security subcmte.

Additional Background: Policy Co-Chair, House Democratic Policy Committee
AF Bases: Minneapolis-St. Paul (ANG/AFRES)

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on Defense; Commerce, Justice, State & Judiciary; Homeland Security - Ranking